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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
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Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*
Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice: other crime prevention and criminal justice matters

Thailand: draft resolution

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

Advancing the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as to the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels,[1]

Strongly determined to reinvigorate political will and to raise the level of the international community's commitment to move the sustainable development agenda forward, through the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and

* E/CN.15/2014/1.
[1] General Assembly resolution 67/1.

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advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",[2] in particular its paragraphs 95 and 116,

Aware of the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which included a call for peace and good governance to be recognized as core elements of well-being, not optional extras and as a "universal agenda" for all countries,

Reiterating that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law,

Recalling its resolution 67/186 of 20 December 2012, entitled "Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking" and its resolution 68/188 of 18 December 2013, entitled "The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",

Acknowledging the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law, and also acknowledging that long-term sustainable economic and social development and the establishment of a functioning, efficient, effective and humane criminal justice system have a positive influence on each other,

Reaffirming the importance of promoting the full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[3] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[4] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[5] as well as relevant international anti-terrorism instruments, as appropriate, and also drawing on the existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Mindful of the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, the world drug problem, in particular illicit drug trafficking and associated money-laundering, terrorist activities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and taking into account the increasing vulnerability of States to such crimes,

Taking note of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development of 7 June 2006,[6] and the declarations adopted by regional conferences hosted by the Governments of Guatemala, Kenya and Thailand that aimed at raising awareness among Member States of the relationship between armed violence and development,

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[2] A/68/202.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[4] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[6] A/63/494, annex I.

Concerned about the serious threat that armed violence and its links to transnational organized crime pose to human development, security and the rule of law, hindering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by reducing national income and productivity, diverting investment and rolling back hard-won development gains,

Recognizing that integrated crime prevention strategies, including comprehensive firearms control regimes, can greatly contribute to the enhancement of the rule of law and community security, and in this regard welcoming the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in April 2013 as a major step towards the regulation of the licit trade in conventional arms, including firearms, and the prevention of their diversion and illicit trafficking,

Recognizing also the importance of ensuring that women, on the basis of equality between men and women, fully enjoy the benefits of the rule of law, and committed to using law to uphold equal rights and ensure their full and equal participation in society,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Government of Thailand in hosting the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law, held in Bangkok on 15 November 2013, which aimed at promoting the significance and relevance of the rule of law, justice and security to achieving sustainable economic and social development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the fostering of stable and peaceful societies, and which recommended integrating the rule of law, justice and security into the post-2015 development agenda,

Welcoming the publication of *Accounting for Security and Justice in the Post-2015 Development Agenda* by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2013,

Welcoming also the publication of the *Global Study on Homicide 2013: Trends, Contexts, Data* by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and noting with great concern the high levels of homicides committed with firearms in some regions of the world,

Taking into consideration that the main theme of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha in 2015, will be "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation",

Convinced that the rule of law, both nationally and internationally, is an essential element in addressing and preventing organized crime and corruption, and noting that it requires strong and efficient justice sector coordination, as well as effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination with other relevant United Nations offices and activities, including in advancing a collaborative agenda for action with respect to a strong preventive approach to crime and violence in urban areas, respect for human rights and the fostering of an effective and fair system of justice, as well personal safety and security,

1. *Reiterates the importance* of the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development, and recommends that such linkages and interrelationships be properly addressed and further developed;

2. *Also reiterates* that the post-2015 development agenda should be guided by respect for and promotion of the rule of law, and that crime prevention and criminal justice have an important role in that regard, paying special attention to the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to channel its recommendations, as appropriate, into the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders;

3. *Recognizes* that countries with higher levels of violence and conflict are slower at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and that some groups living in areas with high levels of violence in middle-income countries are excluded from basic services such as health, safety and education;

4. *Underscores* the need for Member States, in their deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, to draw upon, inter alia, the work of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals related to conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance and to develop goals, targets and indicators related to the rule of law, justice and security with a view to attaining a more comprehensive development approach that enhances peaceful and non-violent societies while promoting universal respect for human rights;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue working collaboratively with other United Nations entities and Member States in the development of justice and security indicators and measurements to be taken into consideration in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda and to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fourth session on the results of this work;

6. *Stresses* the importance of a comprehensive approach to transitional justice, incorporating the wide range of judicial and non-judicial measures to ensure accountability and promote reconciliation while protecting the rights of victims of crime and of abuse of power, drawing on the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with its mandates, to support criminal justice reforms and strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels;

7. *Also stresses* the need for institutions of governance and the judicial system to be gender-sensitive and for the continued promotion of the full participation of women in such institutions;

8. *Further stresses* the importance of promoting the design and implementation of appropriate strategies and policies on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice at the regional and country levels as an effective and coordinated response to transnational and cross-border criminality, particularly in connection with new and emerging dangerous forms of transborder crime;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in developing integrated crime prevention strategies to address armed violence and also to continue to support the exchange of expertise and good practices on the prevention and control of firearms-related criminality, especially when associated with and linked to organized crime, in cooperation with civil society;

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to update the *United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation*[7] and, to this end, urges Member States to provide useful information on national laws and their implementation, including through the omnibus self-assessment software, with a view to conducting an updated comparative analysis that would promote greater harmonization of national laws and practices and, accordingly, enhance arms control and prevent arms-related crimes;

11. *Welcomes* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime initiative to develop a global study on the transnational dimension, routes and modi operandi used in firearms trafficking, and requests the Office to continue to collect and analyse, in cooperation with Member States, data on illicit firearms trafficking, based on a transparent, reliable and shared methodology, with a view to producing periodic reports on firearms trafficking at the global and regional levels and to supporting the efforts of Member States to monitor illicit trafficking flows more effectively;

12. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels, where necessary, including gender-specific data, in order to further promote the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the post-2015 development agenda;

13. *Invites* the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue to include in their work programmes the issues of the rule of law, justice and security, as well as to consider exploring the challenges posed by armed violence and illicit trafficking of firearms, and encourages them to develop appropriate training material;

14. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.IV.2.